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A GRAPHITE STAMP PAD FOR TEMPORARY MARKING

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Quite frequently it is desired to record temporary dates or data on paper-covered salve cans by means of rubber type, stamps, or daters. With the ordinary self-inking stamp pad this is virtually impossible because the ink leaves a permanent record that is not erasable without wearing out the paper on the top of the can. A simple stamp pad can be made that will make it possible to mark clearly and neatly with rubber type and yet will permit easy and complete erasure. This stamp pad is made by placing several layers of blotting paper, wrapped in from 3 to 6 layers of cheesecloth, in a shallow tin can or salve tin. Between the top 2 layers of the cheesecloth is placed about a half teaspoonful of finely ground graphite such as is used for the lubrication of small bearings and precision instruments. The pad is moistened with water, and after a few moments of tamping the graphite becomes wet and the pad is ready for use. The pad should be kept moist by the addition of water from time to time, but an excess of water on the surface of the pad is not desirable. With this pad and a rubber stamp, a series of experiments of short duration can be marked with complete data on each can, without taking the time to write all data on each can. This method also avoids the spoilage of the cans by stamping with indelible or nonerasable ink.

